



Ministry of Environment, Forest  
and Climate Change  
Government of India

# **State of Conservation Report of Keoladeo National Park (India) (N 340)**

## ***Executive Summary***

### **RESPONSE TO THE WORLD HERITAGE COMMITTEE DECISION 36 COM 7B.18**

**Submitted by  
State Party: India**

**to  
UNESCO World Heritage Centre, Paris  
December, 2015**

The World Heritage Committee on the basis of examination of document WHC-14/38.COM/7B and recalling decision 36 COM 7B.18, adopted at the 36Session in 2012 requested the State Party India vide decision 38 COM 7B.66 to submit to the World Heritage Centre by 1st December, 2015, a report on the state of conservation of the property. In this context, a report on the state of conservation of the property including clear time series data on water flows to the property from all relevant projects, time series data and analyses of annual bird counts, information regarding revised management plan for the property, and steps taken for invasive species management, has been submitted for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 40th session in 2016.

To maintain the OUVs of the property, the State Party (India) has taken steps to resolve the water crisis and completed all the major projects including the Govardhan Drain Project. This year (2015), the property has received 290 million cubic feet (mcft) of water from the Govardhan Drain, and so far this year the cumulative total of water received from the Govardhan Drain and the two other major sources (*viz.* Ajan/Panchna Dam and Chambal Pipeline) is 390 mcft. This has led to good heronry formation.

Monitoring of bird species with particular focus on waterbird populations is being carried out through systematic surveys using established methods. Nesting populations and heronry formations have been monitored regularly. Nesting trees are marked and are being monitored for nesting success rate.

The current management plan for KNP has been extended by the Government of Rajasthan for the year 2015-2016, a copy of which would be submitted in December 2016.

In order to regulate developments in the immediate vicinity of the KNP inimical to the Outstanding Universal Values of the property, the State Party has designated an Eco Sensitive Zone of 500 m around the boundary of the property in which activities to be undertaken have been prescribed in 3 categories *viz.* Prohibited, Regulated and Promoted. A draft notification has been issued by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Government of India earmarking an Eco-Sensitive Zone of 500 m around the boundary of the property which, is Annexed.

Invasive species (both floral and faunal) control and management has been an integral part of management of the property with the participation of local communities for management of invasive species including the invasive tree species *Prosopis juliflora*. To address the threat from aquatic invasive species, an intensive operation involving the forest department staff, the rickshaw guides and members of local communities was undertaken this year for control of the invasive African sharp tooth catfish, the African Magur (*Clarias gariepinus*). A total of 40, 117 individuals of the species were successfully removed from different blocks of KNP, which has led to improvement of the habitat.

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